多雷插图本

IDYLLS OF THE KING
亚瑟王传奇

名著图文馆

Alfred Lord Tennyson
[英] 阿尔弗雷德·丁尼生勋爵 著　　　文爱艺 译

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阿尔弗雷德·丁尼生勋爵 著

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

前 言

阿尔弗雷德·丁尼生勋爵（Alfred, Lord Tennyson）于1809年出生于英国的林肯郡。他在12个兄弟姐妹中排行第四，父亲乔治·克莱顿·丁尼生是名教区牧师，母亲为伊丽莎白。阿尔弗雷德对学习不感兴趣，但擅长讲故事；他博览群书，对文学产生了浓厚的兴趣。受弥尔顿和蒲伯的影响，他在孩童时，就已经会创作诗词。由于在相对与世隔绝的教区内长大，他很喜欢乡村，而且在他以后的文学作品中也能看到乡村对他的影响。在19世纪20年代后期，阿尔弗雷德和他的两个兄弟就读于剑桥的三一学院。在那里，他与亚瑟·哈勒姆结下了深厚的友谊。1833年，哈勒姆的猝死促使丁尼生写了对好友的挽歌《纪念亚瑟·哈勒姆》。事实上，这本作品在1850年出版后受到了维多利亚女王的高度评价，丁尼生也因此被封为"桂冠诗人"。

虽然成年后的丁尼生经济困难、身体欠佳并且忍受着遗传性精神失控症的折磨，但他仍然成就了成功的人生。在1850年，他娶了他哥哥查尔斯的小姨子艾米莉·塞尔武德。夫妻俩于1853年搬往维特岛，此后便往返维特岛和位于萨里的奥德沃斯乡村老家之间。丁尼生在1884年被封为贵族，即奥德沃斯和法令福德男爵。丁尼生于1892年在奥德沃斯逝世，他毕生致力于写作事业；逝世那一年，戏剧《舍尔伍德》在纽约创作完成，诗歌的最后一卷《俄诺涅之死，阿卡巴之梦及其他诗歌》出版。

亚瑟王和他的王朝充满着神话传奇色彩，这也正是丁尼生创作《亚瑟王传奇》（又译《国王的叙事诗》）的灵感之源。这部作品不仅对爱与背叛展开了诗意般的深究，更是借诗歌讨论了道德秩序、骑士准则以及人性弱点的错综复杂。叙事诗（一种包含浪漫或者悲剧主题的记叙性田园诗）是在魔法和超自然，特别是在"施用魔法的"莫林（第151行）这个人物的背景下展开的。当然，丁尼生的灵感主要来源于15世纪末托马斯·马洛里爵士的史诗《亚瑟王之死》。

丁尼生的亚瑟王之旅并不始于叙事诗：早在多年以前他就已经出版过大量以亚瑟王为主题的诗歌，包括《夏洛特女士》（1832年）和《加拉哈德爵士》，《兰斯洛特爵士和吉娜薇王后》和《亚瑟王之死》（均于1842年出版）。在许多描写圆桌骑士及其各种冒险和迷情的篇章中，叙事诗不可避免地融合了丁尼生维多利亚式的感性和他收集的中世纪的原始资料。

《亚瑟王传奇》的出版过程有些复杂，类似于分期发表的作品。于1859年首次出版的版本实际上只包含四首叙事诗，包括《伊尼德》、《薇薇安》（后来更名为《莫林和薇薇安》）、《伊莱恩》（后来更名为《兰斯洛特和伊莱恩》）和《吉娜薇王后》。十年后，另外四首叙事诗发表，即《亚瑟王归来》、《圣杯故事》、《佩里亚》与《亚瑟王的消逝》（《亚瑟王的消逝》包括丁尼生在1842年发表的《亚瑟王之死》）。1872年的版本收入了《最终的竞技》和《加尔斯和雷奈特》。1885年的版本收入了《巴林和巴兰》。1959年的版本中《伊尼德》在1884年改版后分为《杰兰特的婚事》和《杰兰特和伊尼德》两部分。在1888年，丁尼生重新整理了各个部分的顺序。这个版本按照《亚瑟王归来》、《圆桌会议》的十个故事、《亚瑟王的消逝》的顺序，结构对称。除了这十二本书外，丁尼生在1862年的版本的开篇部分中还加入了怀念艾伯特王子的献词。艾伯特王子于1861年逝世，在世时，他曾赞扬过这本书，还让人把书的复印本拿去请丁尼生签名。丁尼生以一篇《致女王》结束了这部史诗，这篇结语首次发表在图书版（1872—1873年）上。

在《维多利亚诗歌》（1875年美国首版）一书中，美国评论家兼诗人埃德蒙·克拉伦斯·斯特曼把《亚瑟王传奇》比作"骑士的史诗"。他说丁尼生向我们诠释了理想的骑士精神，而不是它现实的存在形式。丁尼生凭借《亚瑟王传奇》，诠释和赞扬了亚瑟传奇中的英雄式元素，描述了骑士生活的复杂需求，并为这两者作出了不朽的贡献。

目　录

第一部

国王叙事诗

"亚瑟王光辉的领地"
——埃克塞特的约瑟芬

IDYLLS OF THE KING

献　辞[1]

谨以此献给他的回忆——他视之如此珍贵，	THESE to His Memory—since he held them dear,
或许在无意识中寻到了	Perchance as finding there unconsciously
自己的只身片影——我满含热泪，	Some image of himself—I dedicate,
讴歌，称颂，献上——这些田园诗。	I dedicate, I consecrate with tears—These Idylls.
的确，于我而言，	And indeed he seems to me
他并非仅是国王理想的骑士，[2]	Scarce other than my king's ideal knight,
"他崇敬自己的良心如对待自己的国王；	"Who reverenced his conscience as his king;
他的荣耀，纠正人性的过失；	Whose glory was, redressing human wrong;
他非礼勿言，不仅如此，还非礼勿听；	Who spake no slander, no, nor listen'd to it;
他一心只爱他的唯一，并可为她粉身碎骨——" 10	Who loved one only and who clave to her—" 10
她——在所有他们最后的岛屿属地之中，	Her—over all whose realms to their last isle,
混杂了战争迫在眉睫的混沌，[3]	Commingled with the gloom of imminent war,
他陨落的阴影如月蚀般，[4] 让整个世界陷入黑暗。	The shadow of his loss drew like eclipse,
我们已然失去了他；他一去不回。	Darkening the world. We have lost him; he is gone.
我们现在终于认识他；所有狭隘的妒忌	We know him now; all narrow jealousies
变得沉寂，我们眼睁睁看着他离去，	Are silent, and we see him as he moved,
如此谦恭，如此友善，才华横溢，贤明智慧，	How modest, kindly, all-accomplish'd, wise,
带着圣洁崇高的隐忍，	With what sublime repression of himself,
善于约束自我，他是这般温柔；	And in what limits, and how tenderly;
没有朝三暮四的党朋相向；　　　　20	Not swaying to this faction or to that;　　　　20
没有将他高尚的地位插上野心的羽翼，	Not making his high place the lawless perch
化为叛离法律的坐骑，或是享乐的名利场；	Of Wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground
然而历经所有年轮的洗礼，	For pleasure; but thro all this tract of years
戴上无愧一生的洁白花朵，	Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
在一千道卑微窥探的目光面前，	Before a thousand peering littlenesses,

在那炙热的明亮中跳动着一顶王冠
让每一污点变得更黑；而他在哪？
谁敢于预言，赋予自己唯一的儿子
一个比自己更美好，更清白的人生呢？
或者英格兰该如何梦想自己的子民们　　30
能拥有继承之外的东西？
拥有这样的一生，这样一颗心，以及汝般的智慧。
你这高尚的父，国家的王，⁵
为他的子民尤其穷人鞠躬尽瘁——
呼吁丰饶的日子和富裕的黎明——
深思远见战争的前哨并耗尽心力
为和平做出有效的努力与反抗——⁶
这样甜美的自然品性，以亲和的文字
让它熠熠生辉，这是科学的荣耀，艺术的珍奇
我们整个国土的瑰宝，一个真正的国王，　　40
所有头衔都配不上他，家喻户晓的名字，
阿尔伯特的事迹，从此以后，流芳百世。
噢，女人啊，莫心碎，只要坚忍依旧；
莫心碎，因你无比高贵，便能不朽，
记住那颗星辰所有的美丽，
在你的身旁闪烁，
点点的星光聚集成河，但很快离去，
在皇冠之上留下永恒孤绝的荣耀。愿所有的爱，
他的爱，看不见但能感受到，在你头顶将你庇护，
你所有儿子的爱陪伴你　　50
你所有女儿的爱珍视你，
你所有人民的爱抚慰你，
直到上帝的爱再次把你送到他的身旁！

In that fierce light which beats upon a throne
And blackens every blot; for where is he
Who dares foreshadow for an only son
A lovelier life, a more unstain'd, than his?
Or how should England dreaming of his sons　　30
Hope more for these than some inheritance
Of such a life, a heart, a mind as thine,
Thou noble Father of her Kings to be,
Laborious for her people and her poor—
Voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day—
Far-sighted summoner of War and Waste
To fruitful strifes and rivalries of peace—
Sweet nature gilded by the gracious gleam
Of letters, dear to Science, dear to Art,
Dear to thy land and ours, a Prince indeed,　　40
Beyond all titles, and a household name,
Hereafter, thro all times, Albert the Good.
Break not, O woman's-heart, but still endure;
Break not, for thou art royal, but endure,
Remembering all the beauty of that star
Which shone so close beside thee that ye made
One light together, but has past and leaves
The Crown a lonely splendor. May all love,
His love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,　　50
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at his side again!

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1. 献辞：这篇献辞首次发表在1862年的版本中。它不仅是为了歌颂阿尔伯特王子："而且通过介绍亚瑟王在他的骑士面前设下的骑士精神概念，使整首诗的基调变得富有美感"（利特代尔）。

2. 第6行："他并非仅是国王理想的骑士"第一个版本为"除了我自己的理想骑士外"。

3. 第12行："混杂着战争迫在眉睫的光辉"暗指在"特伦特号事件"中，英国与美国一触即发的战争。阿尔伯特王子的影响力在很大程度上避免了战争的发生。

4. 第13行："他陨落的阴影如月蚀般"在第一个版本中是"移动"而不是"拉动"。

5.　第33行："你这高尚的父，国家的王，" 比较《在国际展览会开幕式上的颂歌》（1862）："噢，即将成为我们的国王的安静的父亲，"等。

6.　第37行："为和平做出有成效的努力与反抗，" 指的是1851年和1862年的国际展览会。当时王子正忙于筹划自己的身后之事。

亚瑟王的到来[1]

*

THE COMING OF ARTHUR

雷奥道格雷，卡米雷亚得的国王，
除拥有一个美丽的女儿外，再没有其他孩子；
她的美丽无人能及，
她就是吉娜薇，国王唯一的快乐。
亚瑟王到来前，许多昏庸的国王[2]
统治着这个岛国，这里常年征战
互相倾轧，所有的土地都被白白荒废；
仍然有许多异教徒不时地
抢夺掳掠，蜂拥海外。
大量士地成了荒蛮之原， 10
野兽大肆繁殖，越来越多，
而人则日益稀少，直到亚瑟王到来。
第一位国王奥勒留[3]生存，战斗，死去，
之后，国王乌瑟尔继续征战，殒命，
但都没能统一王朝。
在这之后，这位亚瑟王，花费时日，
建立了圆桌骑士的权威，
将所有的小国统治到自己麾下，
成为他们的国王和首领，完成统一王朝的大业。
那时卡米雷亚得的土地已荒废， 20
密布潮湿的森林，无数野兽深藏其中，
几乎没有什么能够恐吓或驱赶它们；
因此，野狗，野狼，野猪和熊
日夜来袭，扎根于此，
留恋于国王的花园中。
时不时趁人不备野狼就会叼走
孩童然后将其吞噬，然而有时
它们自己的崽子死了或丢了，它就把乳头借给
人类的孩子吮吸；而这些孩子，在野狼的兽穴中
无拘无束地长大，在血淋淋的肉块中咆哮， 30
仿效他们的狼母，四足前进
直到，某天直立行走，长成狼人，[4]
半人半兽。国王雷奥道格雷
在这儿为罗马军团[5]
和凯撒的鹰悲叹不已。然后他的国王兄弟，
尤利安将他刺杀；[6]最后一大群异教徒，
用硝烟和泥土将太阳和大地染红，
用让母亲撕心裂肺的长钉，
钉住孩子，将他囚禁，但让人吃惊的是，
他不知道自己，该向何处请求援助。 40

Leodogran, the king of Cameliard,
Had one fair daughter, and none other child;
And she was fairest of all flesh on earth,
Guinevere, and in her his one delight.
For many a petty king ere Arthur came
Ruled in this isle and, ever waging war
Each upon other, wasted all the land;
And still from time to time the heathen host
Swarm'd over-seas, and harried what was left.
And so there grew great tracts of wilderness, 10
Wherein the beast was ever more and more,
But man was less and less, till Arthur came.
For first Aurelius lived and fought and died,
And after him King Uther fought and died,
But either fail'd to make the kingdom one.
And after these King Arthur for a space,
And thro' the puissance of his Table Round,
Drew all their petty princedoms under him,
Their king and head, and made a realm and reign'd.
And thus the land of Cameliard was waste, 20
Thick with wet woods, and many a beast therein,
And none or few to scare or chase the beast;
So that wild dog and wolf and boar and bear
Came night and day, and rooted in the fields,
And wallow'd in the gardens of the King.
And ever and anon the wolf would steal
The children and devour, but now and then,
Her own brood lost or dead, lent her fierce teat
To human sucklings; and the children, housed
In her foul den, there at their meat would growl, 30
And mock their foster-mother on four feet,
Till, straighten'd, they grew up to wolf-like men,
Worse than the wolves. And King Leodogran
Groan d for the Roman legions here again
And Caesar's eagle. Then his brother king,
Urien, assail'd him; last a heathen horde,
Reddening the sun with smoke and earth with blood,
And on the spike that split the mother's heart
Spitting the child, brake on him, till, amazed,
He knew not whither he should turn for aid. 40

但是——当亚瑟加冕为王，	But—for he heard of Arthur newly crown'd,
纷争四起，有人	Tho' not without an uproar made by those
呼喊道："他不是乌瑟尔的儿子"——国王	Who cried "He is not Uther's son"—the King
给他传话道："起来，你要帮助我们！	Sent to him, saying, "Arise, and help us thou!
因为在这土地上，人们都丧命于野兽。"	For here between the man and beast we die."
亚瑟还没有在军队建立功勋，	And Arthur yet had done no deed of arms,
但是听到号召，他便来了；那时吉娜薇	But heard the Call and came; and Guinevere
就站在城堡的墙头，看见他的身影经过；	Stood by the castle walls to watch him pass;
但是因为他既未戴头盔，也没有	But since he neither wore on helm or shield
身披象征自己皇权的黄金符， 50	The golden symbol of his kinglihood, 50
看起来不过是一个在骑士队伍中行进的普通士兵，	But rode a simple knight among his knights,
队伍中的许多人都身着更好的装备，	And many of these in richer arms than he,
她眼睛未看他，也未注意，如果她看见了，	She saw him not, or mark'd not, if she saw,
也不过是人海中的一个，尽管他露着脸颊。	One among many, tho his face was bare.
但是亚瑟自己，虽然经过时眼睛下视	But Arthur, looking downward as he past,
却感觉到她的眼光，穿透了自己的生命	Felt the light of her eyes into his life
那突然的震惊，他又继续骑行，	Smite on the sudden, yet rode on, and pitch'd
在森林中安营扎寨。后来他赶走[7]	His tents beside the forest. Then he drave
了异教徒；消灭了野兽，砍倒林木，	The heathen; after, slew the beast, and fell'd
让久违的阳光照进，为猎人 60	The forest, letting in the sun, and made 60
和骑士开出一条宽阔的道路，	Broad pathways for the hunter and the knight,
之后，就返回了。	And so return'd.
亚瑟王在森林中逗留时，	For while he linger'd there,
领土内的大贵族和男爵们	A doubt that ever smoulder'd in the hearts
心中郁积着深深的怀疑，这些念头不断	Of those great lords and barons of his realm
闪现促使他们制造争端：反对最甚的是	Flash'd forth and into war; for most of these,
联合起来二十个小国君，[8]	Colleaguing with a score of petty kings,
将矛头对准亚瑟王，大呼小叫道："他是谁？	Made head against him, crying: "Who is he
没来由地统治我们？谁能证明他	That he should rule us? who hath proven him
就是乌瑟尔王之子？瞧！我们看着他，	King Uther's son? for lo! we look at him,
无论面庞还是举止，体态或是声音， 70	And find nor face nor bearing, limbs nor voice, 70
全都不像我们所知的那个乌瑟尔王。	Are like to those of Uther whom we knew.
他是哥罗亚之子，不是我们国王的；	This is the son of Gorloïs, not the King;
他是安东之子，不是我们国王的！"	This is the son of Anton, not the King."
而亚瑟自己，再次征战沙场，感受	And Arthur, passing thence to battle, felt
生命的辛劳，苦痛和挣扎，	Travail, and throes and agonies of the life,
渴望能够和吉娜薇结合；	Desiring to be join'd with Guinevere,
他在骑行中思索："她的父亲说	And thinking as he rode: "Her father said
人类死于与野兽的搏斗中。"	That there between the man and beast they die."
难道我不应该把她从这片野兽之地救走，	Shall I not lift her from this land of beasts

带往我的王国，与她并肩作战？ 80
孤独地统治王国有何快乐可言，
哦，头上的星辰冷冷令我不寒而栗，
哦，脚下的大地对我发出空洞响声，
纠缠于无谓的梦境？如果我无法
和她，天空之下最美丽的女人，结合，
那么在这个强大的世界里，我将显得如此微不足道，
我无法成就我的意愿，亦不能攀登我的伟业，
更无法将自己造就成我疆土上的
胜者和王者。而一旦我和她结合，
我们就能将生命融为一体， 90
用这统一的意志将一切统治
拥有力量，照亮这黑暗的土地，
拥有力量，复苏这死寂的世界！
自此以后——讲故事的人这样说⁹
当亚瑟来到刀光剑影的战场
敌人的扎营清晰可见，于是世间的一切
便尽在他的掌握之中，对他来说
远山上最渺小的砂石，甚至是深空里的晨星，
他都能做到心中有数。
当亚瑟王战胜的旗帜四处飘扬， 100
胜利的号角立刻响彻四面八方，
而尖利的呼喊也为这血雨助战，
长枪短兵相接，战马交替飞驰。
现在男爵们和国王们已经占了上风，
而那国王仍在四处奔波，
来回征战；而那些游手好闲的统治者们
则向他掷以闪电和雷鸣，
并在一旁冷眼旁观，直到亚瑟竭尽全力，
用他强有力的双手将一切覆于掌下，
带领他的骑士风云席卷，横扫整个国土， 110
同爱尔兰的安奎斯特，蒙各罗斯
以及奥尼克岛的罗德，打败了
威尔士的胜利者卡罗多斯，尤利安和克莱顿蒙德，¹⁰
诺森伯兰郡的骑士克劳迪安和克兰雷斯，
以及兰亨格尔的国王布兰德安格洛斯。
那个声音如此恐惧
就像发现罪恶，认为世界皆睡我独醒，但未喊之前，
他们突然转向，停止飞奔。而亚瑟呼吁
骑士的品格，写上传单让信使暗传，

Up to my throne and side by side with me? 80
What happiness to reign a lonely king,
Vext-O ye stars that shudder over me,
O earth that soundest hollow under me,
Vext with waste dreams? For saving I be join'd
To her that is the fairest under heaven,
I seem as nothing in the mighty world,
And cannot will my will nor work my work
Wholly, nor make myself in mine own realm
Victor and lord. But were I join'd with her,
Then might we live together as one life, 90
And reigning with one will in everything
Have power on this dark land to lighten it,
And power on this dead world to make it live.
Thereafter—as he speaks who tells the tale
When Arthur reach'd a field of battle bright
With pitch'd pavilions of his foe, the world
Was all so clear about him that he saw
The smallest rock far on the faintest hill,
And even in high day the morning star.
So when the King had set his banner broad, 100
At once from either side, with trumpet-blast,
And shouts, and clarions shrilling unto blood,
The long-lanced battle let their horses run.
And now the barons and the kings prevail'd,
And now the King, as here and there that war
Went swaying; but the Powers who walk the world
Made lightnings and great thunders over him,
And dazed all eyes, till Arthur by main might,
And mightier of his hands with every blow,
And leading all his knighthood threw the kings, 110
Carados, Urien, Cradlemont of Wales,
Claudius, and Clariance of Northumberland,
The King Brandagoras of Latangor,
With Anguisant of Erin, Morganore,
And Lot of Orkney. Then, before a voice
As dreadful as the shout of one who sees
To one who sins, and deems himself alone
And all the world asleep, they swerved and brake
Flying, and Arthur call'd to stay the brands

"哦，他们投降了！" 120
如画中之战，战争停止
如死寂般静止不动，
此时亚瑟的心由欢乐主宰。
他对自己至爱至敬的战士露出笑颜。
"你没有怀疑你的国君，
而你的队伍同样也为我战斗至今！"
"大人，我的君王，"他叫道："在战场之上
上帝的光辉降临于您：
我就知道您是我的君王！"此后这两人
在战场上同进同退， 130
在死亡之地许下至死不渝的誓言。
亚瑟说道："上帝之辞即人言之；[11]
无论发生何事，我亦将至死信任于你。"
很快他便从战场派来[12]
尤菲斯、布莱斯丁和贝德维尔，
他新近吸纳的骑士，去见国王雷奥道格雷
说道："如果您认为我干得不错，
请把您的女儿吉娜薇许配给我，做我的妻子！"
国王雷奥道格雷一字一句听在心上
为难不已——"我可是个国王， 140
尽管他尽我所需帮助我，我是否就应该
把我那本应许配国王的女儿，给了
这个国王的儿子？"——他抬高声音叫来
一个灰白头发的老人，即他的管家，
他在一切事情上都倾信于其。
国王问："你应该最了解亚瑟的出生吧？"
那灰发的管家娓娓道来，
"国王阁下，世上只有两个老人知道这件事：
每一个都长我一倍；一位
是莫林，那是一个智者，曾以他的魔力效忠于 150
乌瑟尔国王；另一位
就是莫林的师傅——他们就这么叫他——布雷斯，
那个教授他魔术的人，但是莫林
却青出于蓝，而现在布雷斯
已不再教授魔法，他居于定所，
在一本宏大的纪事书上写下
莫林的一切成就，若干年后，
便能从书中得知亚瑟王的生世之谜。"
国王雷奥道格雷回答道，"哦，朋友，

That hack'd among the flyers, "Ho! they yield!" 120
So like a painted battle the war stood
Silenced, the living quiet as the dead,
And in the heart of Arthur joy was lord.
He laugh'd upon his warrior whom he loved
And honor'd most "Thou dost not doubt me King,
So well thine arm hath wrought for me today."
"Sir and my liege," he cried, "the fire of God
Descends upon thee in the battle-field.
I know thee for my King!" Whereat the two,
Fer each had warded either in the fight, 130
Sware on the field of death a deathless love.
And Arthur said, "Man's word is God in man;
Let chance what will, I trust thee to the death."
Then quickly from the foughten field he sent
Ulfius, and Brastias, and Bedivere,
His new—made knights, to King Leodogran,
Saying, "If I in aught have served thee well,
Give me thy daughter Guinevere to wife."
Whom when he heard, Leodogran in heart
Debating—"How should I that am a king, 140
However much he help me at my need,
Give my one daughter saving to a king,
And a king's son?" —lifted his voice, and call'd
A hoary man, his chamberlain, to whom
He trusted all things, and of him required
His counsel: "Knowest thou aught of Arthur's birth?"
Then spake the hoary chamberlain and said:
"Sir King, there be but two old men that know;
And each is twice as old as I;and one
Is Merlin, the wise man that ever served 150
King Uther thro; his magic art, and one
Is Merlin's master—so they call him—Bleys,
Who taught him magic; but the scholar ran
Before the master, and so far that Bleys
Laid magic by, and sat him down, and wrote
All things and whatsoever Merlin did
In one great annal-book, where after-years
Will learn the secret of our Arthur's birth."
To whom the King Leodogran replied:

如果不是这个亚瑟王做我的左臂右膀，　　　160
就像你帮助我直到今天一样，
那么野兽和敌人早已将我的尸体瓜分；
就再一次召唤那三个勇士到这儿来，
尤菲斯，布莱斯丁和贝德维尔。"
当他们来到国王面前，国王说道，
"我曾见过小鸡追着杜鹃，
也有自己的理由；但为何
你们的领主挑起战火，
有人说他是出生于哥罗亚家，
另有人说他是安东的儿子？你们自己告诉我，　　　170
这个国王亚瑟究竟是不是乌瑟尔之子？"
尤菲斯，布莱斯丁回答道："是。"
接着那亚瑟王加冕时，归于麾下
的首席骑士贝德维尔，开口了——
此人心直口快又忠肝义胆，
对国王从无半点忤逆和诽谤之言——
"阁下，外面有许多关于亚瑟王的谣言。"
那些人对他心怀仇恨，
中伤他身世卑微，且因亚瑟王性情温和，
而他们却残忍卑劣，便说他不配称王；　　　180
还有一些人认为他是人中骄子，
想着他为上帝所赐；而我相信
所有这些——请您细听端详——
阁下，你知道在乌瑟尔王的时代
同是王子兼武士的哥罗亚，曾
康沃尔的海边拥有廷塔格城堡，
娶了一个迷人的妻子，伊格林。
她为他诞下了许多的女儿——其中包括
罗德的妻子，奥克尼的王后，贝尔森特。
她曾像一位忠诚的姐姐般一心一意对待　　　190
亚瑟——但伊格林却从未诞下儿子。
乌瑟尔王对她投去爱慕的一瞥；
而她，哥罗亚贞洁的妻子，
如此厌恶这耻辱之爱，
哥罗亚和乌瑟尔王就此卷入激战：
最后哥罗亚王朝倾覆，国王惨遭凌迟。
乌瑟尔王怒火冲冲包围城池，
将伊格林困于廷塔格城内，
她的士兵看见了城墙下强大的军队，

"O friend, had I been holpen half as well.　　　160
By this King Arthur as by thee today,
Then beast and man had had their share of me;
But summon here before us yet once more
Ulfius, and Brastias, and Bedivere."
Then, when they came before him, the king said:
"I have seen the cuckoo chased by lesserfowl,
And reason in the chase; but wherefore now
Do these your lords stir up the heat of war,
Some calling Arthur born of Gorloïs,
Others of Anton? Tell me, ye yourselves,　　　170
Hold ye this Arthur for King Uther's son?"
And Ulfius and Brastias answer'd, "Ay."
Then Bedivere, the first of all his knights
Knighted by Arthur at his crowning, spake—
For bold in heart and act and word was he,
Whenever slander breathed against the King—
"Sir, there be many rumors on this head."
For there be those who hate him in their hearts,
Call him baseborn, and since his ways are sweet,
And theirs are bestial, hold him less than man;　　　180
And there be those who deem him more than man,
And dream he dropt from heaven. But my belief
In all this matter—so ye care to learn—
Sir, for ye know that in King Uther's time
The prince and warrior Gorloïs, he that held
Tintagil castle by the Cornish sea,
Was wedded with a winsome wife, Ygerne.
And daughters had she borne him,—one whereof,
Lot's wife, the Queen of Orkney, Bellicent,
Hath ever like a loyal sister cleaved　　　190
To Arthur,—but a son she had not borne.
And Uther cast upon her eyes of love;
But she, a stainless wife to Gorloïs,
So loathed the bright dishonor of his love
That Gorloïs and King Uther went to war,
And overthrown was Gorloïs and slain.
Then Uther in his wrath and heat besieged
Ygerne within Tintagil, where her men,
Seeing the mighty swarm about their walls,